



Atty. Dkt. No. 076326-0303

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A hinge for connecting a hood to a vehicle body, having at least one hinge carrier arranged on the vehicle body, at least one hinge arm arranged on the hood, and at least one connecting part for a pivotable connection of the at least one hinge arm to the at least one hinge carrier,

wherein the hinge is configured so that the pivotable connection of the at least one hinge arm to the at least one hinge carrier is released in an event of an accident by removal and/or destruction of the at least one connecting part due to forces acting in an axial direction ~~a direction~~ of a pivot axis of the hinge.

3. (Currently Amended) A hinge for connecting a hood to a vehicle body, comprising:

at least one hinge carrier arranged on the vehicle body, at least one hinge arm arranged on the hood, and at least one connecting part for a pivotable connection of the at least one hinge arm to the at least one hinge carrier,

wherein the hinge is configured so that the pivotable connection of the at least one hinge arm to the at least one hinge carrier is released in an event of an accident by removal and/or destruction of the at least one connecting part,

wherein the at least one connecting part is ~~designed as an explosive bolt or a shear bolt designed to shear off by forces used to raise the engine hood in the event of an accident such that connection between the hinge arm and the hinge carrier is eliminated or an explosive bolt.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one connecting part is guided in at least one socket on the at least one hinge arm and in at least one socket on the at least one hinge carrier and, in the event of an accident, is removed from at least one socket of the sockets.

5. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 4, wherein the at least one connecting part is designed as a bolt which is pulled out of the at least one of the sockets.

6. (Previously Presented) The hinge as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one actuating device is provided for actuating the at least one connecting part in the event of an accident.

7. (Previously Presented) The hinge as claimed in claim 6, wherein the at least one actuating device comprises a pyrotechnic element.

8. (Previously Presented) The hinge as claimed in claim 6, wherein the at least one actuating device is an inflatable airbag and/or a gas-conducting element.

9. (Previously Presented) The hinge as claimed in claim 8, wherein the airbag and/or the gas-conducting element acts on the at least one connecting part via at least one transmission element.

10. (Previously Presented) The hinge as claimed in claim 9, wherein the at least one transmission element is designed as a lever.

11. (Previously Presented) The hinge as claimed in claim 9, wherein on filling with gas, the airbag and/or the gas-conducting element, owing to its expansion, exerts a push or a pull on the at least one connecting part and/or the at least one transmission element.

12. (Previously Presented) The hinge as claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one hinge carrier has at least one socket which corresponds with the at least one connecting part and is configured to release the at least one connecting part in the event of an accident.

13. (Previously Presented) The hinge as claimed in claim 12, wherein the at least one hinge carrier has at least one moveable hinge carrier part which, in the event of an accident, is

moved in relation to at least one fixed hinge carrier part in such a manner that the at least one connecting part accommodated therein comes free.

14. (Previously Presented) The hinge as claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one hinge arm has a deformation region for a specific deformation of the at least one hinge arm in the event of an accident.

15. (Previously Presented) The hinge as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one connecting part is disengaged from the at least one hinge carrier by deformation of the at least one hinge arm.

16. (Previously Presented) The hinge as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one limiting device is arranged for limiting relative movement between the at least one hinge carrier and at least one hinge arm.

17. (Previously Presented) The hinge as claimed in claim 16, wherein the at least one limiting device is a rebound strap and/or a lever guided in a coulisse.

18. (Currently Amended) An airbag for opening a hood connected by a hinge to a vehicle body wherein the airbag is configured to release the hood from the vehicle body using forces generated by the airbag that act in an axial direction ~~a direction~~ of a pivot axis of the hinge when the airbag is deployed in a region of the hinge.

19. (Previously Presented) The airbag as claimed in claim 18, wherein airbag regions are arranged directly on the hinge.

20. (Previously Presented) The airbag as claimed in claim 19, wherein the airbag, when deployed, is first of all deployed in the airbag regions arranged on the hinge.

21. (Previously Presented) The airbag as claimed in claim 19, wherein a gas-conducting system is arranged in an interior of the airbag, and
wherein the gas conducting system conducts gas used for the deployment into the airbag regions arranged on the hinge.

22. (Previously Presented) The airbags as claimed in claim 21, wherein the gas-conducting system is a gas lance.

23. (New) The hinge as claimed in claim 3, wherein the at least one connecting part is the explosive bolt.